

2017 -- H 6378

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

RECOGNIZING RICHARD D. RASPALLO, ESQ., FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS APPOINTMENT AS MAGISTRATE OF THE RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Shekarchi, Serpa, Corvese, and Kennedy

Date Introduced: September 19, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, For more than fourteen years, Richard D. Raspallo, Esq., has been a
2 dedicated and valued employee of the General Assembly, bringing a combination of legal
3 knowledge and a measured approach to legal and legislative issues to his work; and

4 WHEREAS, A long-time resident of Cranston, Rhode Island, Richard graduated from the
5 University of Rhode Island in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, Psychology, and
6 Secondary Education, and subsequently obtained his law degree from the Roger Williams
7 University School of Law in 1997; and

8 WHEREAS, After graduating from law school, Richard worked as an attorney in his own
9 practice. He also worked as a member of the adjunct faculty at Johnson and Wales University
10 and as the assistant city solicitor for the City of Cranston; and

11 WHEREAS, In June of 2003, Richard began his legal career with the General Assembly
12 as a part-time attorney with the Office of the Legislative Council, where he developed a
13 reputation as a hard-working dedicated attorney, so much so that he was asked to serve as interim
14 legal counsel to the Rhode Island House Finance Committee during the 2009 session; and

15 WHEREAS, In February of 2010, Richard became Chief Legal Counsel to then House
16 Majority Leader Nicholas A. Mattiello, and in March of 2014, he became Chief Legal Counsel to
17 now Speaker Mattiello; and

18 WHEREAS, Richard has worked hand in hand with Speaker Mattiello to help navigate
19 the House of Representatives through many challenges which face all legislatures today; Richard

1 has worn multiple hats as legal counsel, confidant, adviser, advocate, and friend, not only to the
2 Speaker, but to other members of this House, our staff, and our colleagues in the Senate. Further,
3 while working in these high-profile positions, Richard’s demeanor, his willingness to listen to all
4 sides, his openness to compromise, and his ability to work collaboratively yet act decisively, has
5 earned him the admiration and respect of his fellow workers as well as all the members of the
6 General Assembly; and

7 WHEREAS, While the demands of his work at the General Assembly have been very
8 time consuming, Richard has regularly volunteered his time to share his knowledge of
9 government and law with others, including his many trips to high schools to work with students
10 on constitutional issues in the Rhode Island Judiciary’s annual Law Day program, and giving
11 presentations on legislative drafting and the legislative process to attorneys through seminars
12 conducted with the Rhode Island Bar Association’s Government Lawyers Committee; and

13 WHEREAS, Richard is the proud son of Thomas and Ann Raspallo, and a devoted father
14 to his three boys, Thomas, James, and Michael; and

15 WHEREAS, Richard was recently appointed by Superior Court Presiding Justice Alice
16 B. Gibney to become a Rhode Island Superior Court Magistrate. In this instance, the General
17 Assembly’s loss results in the Superior Court’s gain; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
19 Providence Plantations hereby expresses its heartfelt appreciation to Richard D. Raspallo for the
20 countless hours and frequently lengthy days he has worked over the course of the past fourteen
21 and a half years with the General Assembly. We wish him continued success as a magistrate of
22 the Rhode Island Superior Court, where we fully expect his measured approach to law and justice
23 will make him a valuable asset to the Judiciary as well as to the people of the state; and be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
26 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Richard D. Raspallo, Esq.

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